

Century 1993

Winter Rescues

Several people came to Pocahontas County last week with plans of enjoying an early spring weekend in the mountains. Instead they had to be rescued from the worst snowstorm to hit the county in a number of years.

Early Saturday morning Junior Hamons was contacted by Conservation Officer Doshie Webb to see if he could get to a man known to be camping with two others at Tea Creek to respond to an emergency message. Mr. Hamons and Delbert Sharp drove as far as possible and then went by Mr. Hamons' snowmobile the last four miles to Tea Creek. A total of five men were found when they arrived.

The man needing to make contact with his family was gotten out about 11 a.m. After making his call he went back with Mr. Hamons, Mr. Sharp, and Denver Hamons to bring the other men from Tea Creek. A second snowmobile was now available. Fighting worsening snow conditions, drifts up to 14 feet, and near zero visibility, the group reached a cabin just above the Howard Mullens home about 11 p.m. owned by a friend of the Sharps. The night was spent there with heat but little food.

A Division of Highways crew began opening the Williams River Road Sunday morning. They had to start at Edray as the road was closed to Rt. 219. After four to five hours the cabin and the eight men were reached about 3 p.m.

Saturday evening Andy Gibson took his snowmobile and tried to get to Tea Creek to help bring the men out. However, by 9:30 p.m. he had made it only as far as the Williams River bridge and had to turn back.

On Tuesday Marvin Doss took his bulldozer to Williams River to open up the road so the camping equipment could be brought out. He was accompanied by Mr. Sharp and USFS employee Chris Rao.

On Friday a group of three adults and two children from Jackson, Ohio, took their horses for a weekend camping trip in the Cranberry Back Country. Their concerned families notified local officials. Efforts on Saturday to get in with a snowmobile and road equipment were not successful. The Department of Natural Resources provided its helicopter Sunday to help the Sheriff's Department look for the group. Deputy Sheriff Craig Doss joined the DNR pilot in the search.

The search was unsuccessful on Sunday but got underway again first thing Monday morning. About 11 a.m. the five were found about nine miles below the gate on the Cranberry River Road. The two children, ages 13 and 12, were taken out on the helicopter. They



Stella Totten recalls the Grimes School

Anna M. Dillon, of Columbus, Ohio, sent the Pocahontas County Historical Society a photograph and history of the Grimes School. Mrs. Dillon obtained the picture and information on the school from her mother, Stella Grimes Totten, a former student at the school.

The Grimes Schoolhouse was located on Tilda Creek, fork of Stamping Creek. Today, if you travel route 39 west from Mill Point, you would arrive at Tilda Creek road a little over a mile on the left. The history of Pocahontas County, W.Va - 1981, page 99, states: The schoolhouse was "built about 1894. Closed in 1937."

Stella Faye Grimes Totten, daughter of James Bryson Grimes and Luvary Frances Johnson Grimes, (1988) living in Kissimmee, Florida, talked about the Grimes School and the role her family had in its formation.

She said that her grandparents, Allen D. Grimes, (1828-1888) and Sarah Jane Silva Grimes were instrumental in the formation of the school to educate their children. With the help of the neighborhood families, this dream came about. When James Bryson Grimes (1861-1951) took over the family farm on Tilda Creek, he carried on his father's enthusiasm for education.

Mrs. Totten named some of the families she remembered being involved: Grimes, Carpenter, Scott, Rose, Auldridge, Hefner, Thompson, Hooks and Davis. The participating families paid room and board for the teacher; and the men supplied the firewood to heat the school's potbelly stove. Water used at the school was carried by bucket from the Grimes family spring.

In the Grimes Family history, compiled by Anna Mary Totten Dillon, (page 69) Mrs. Totten said, "We would start to school in the fall of the year and attended for six months. My first school teacher was Nina Auldridge. She was a redhead and we all loved her. We started studying from the Primer. There were eight grades in one room. We were each assigned a desk. The boys were on one side of the room and the girls on the other. When our teacher called the class to order, we would all go up front and sit on long benches to recite our lessons. I walked to school - it was just a short distance. My sister, Hester Grimes Rose, was a teacher at one time. She was paid \$25 a month. It was called the Grimes Schoolhouse.

There was a footbridge across the creek made of half logs that we used when we went to school. I remember my Dad coming down along the creek across from the school. He yelled for us to come home. The water in the creek was getting high. We all scurried for home. As I stepped on the log bridge, it sank down about four inches under the water. I didn't lose any time getting across. The next morning the bridge was gone. We missed school that day.

Page 49, The Grimes School building at one time was used for church services. Just as in school the division of the sexes continued on Sunday, the men on one side of the room and the women on the other."

The teachers that Mrs. Totten remembered were: Nina Auldridge, Carl Bruffey, Ulrick Grimes, Hester Grimes Rose, and Ralph Buckley.

Founder of Academy also planned town of Hillsboro

The Rev. Joseph Brown came to the Little Levels in 1835 and took charge of all the Presbyterian Churches in Pocahontas, along with Spring Creek and Anthony's Creek congregations in north Greenbrier, and made the rounds once a month.

In 1840 a charter was obtained from the Virginia Legislature for the charter members of the board of trustees were Josiah Beard, Henry M. Moffett, Major J. C. Blair, Sheldon Clark, Samuel D. Poage, Col. John Hill, and Moses H. Poage; a brick building was erected, a nice apparatus was purchased to illustrate studies in Geography, Astronomy and Natural Philosophy. Rev. Brown was principal and Joseph Caldwell assistant. The patronage of the Academy was large; Monro, Greenbrier, Nicholas, and Bath counties were represented by numerous students.

In 1843 Mr. Brown accepted the presidency of the Lewisburg Academy and in 1844 Rev. M. D. Dunlap was chosen principal of the Pocahontas Academy as his successor.

The Rev. Joseph Brown was the seventh of eleven children of Rev. Samuel and Mary Moore Brown and was born near Brownsburg, Rockbridge County, September 24,

1809, and was 26 years of age when he took up his residence in our county in 1835, and spent in the region, according to him, seven of the most useful and satisfactory years of his interesting life. He afterwards labored as teacher at Lewisburg, spent years in Texas and Florida.

Mr. Brown's residence, about a half a mile way, was a plain unhewn log tenement in the midst of a field and had been and was afterwards used as a barn . . .

The second session was held in the Oak Grove Church, about two or more miles away, where the cemetery now is. This distance was daily walked by himself, assistant and four boarders. The third session was taught in the new building near the pole cabin.

Upon taking charge of his school Mr. Brown relinquished Liberty and Huntersville churches to be supplied by Rev. T. P. W. Magruder, but retained Oak Grove,



REV. JOSEPH BROWN
founded the Little Levels
Academy and planned the
Town of Hillsboro

In 1840 he married Miss Eliza Matthews, of Lewisburg, and in the same year established the Pocahontas Academy at Hillsboro; the first session was taught in a pole cabin roofed with boards. It stood near two oak trees, near the site of the Holt store; afterwards it was used as a smithy by William Hill and Samuel Poage, and was burned in 1848.

He rarely ever missed an

appointment and was usually in his place to open school Monday morning. . . . The educational impulse given by Mr. Brown led to the founding of two other chartered Academies, Huntersville and Green Bank, both at times flourishing schools. It was at the Hillsboro school that the writer received the most of his preparatory training for college under Mr. Brown and his successor M. D. Dunlap.

Mr. Brown died in Texas 1881, aged 72 years. W. T. P. (The Rev. William T. Price in *The Pocahontas Times* about 1904)

April 1982

HISTORIC NOTES

Education an important part of Hillsboro history

Hillsboro High School came into existence in March, 1911, when the Board of Education of Little Levels District in a regular meeting passed an order establishing a district high school at Academy (now Hillsboro). At this same meeting, steps were taken for the holding of a district election to authorize a special levy of twenty cents on the hundred dollars' valuation for the purpose of purchasing suitable grounds and erecting a modern brick building. In this special election, held May 20, 1911, the citizens of Little Levels District decided by a large majority in favor of the levy. Much of the credit for the passage of the levy was given to the efforts of Dr. H. W. McNeel and M. L. Beard, who were members of the Board.

By the opening of school in September, 1912, a splendid new building stood complete and ready for occupancy by both grade and high school students. The first principal of the new high school was Chafe Wilson. In the first graduating class, 1913, were Bertha Overholt and Charles Smith. The class of 1914 also had only two graduates, Dakota Kirk and Henry Beard.

Academy — Known as the Brick Academy, the famous school was housed in a brick building until the 1882 when it was replaced by this larger frame building located where Rt. 219 and the Denmar road intersect in Hillsboro.

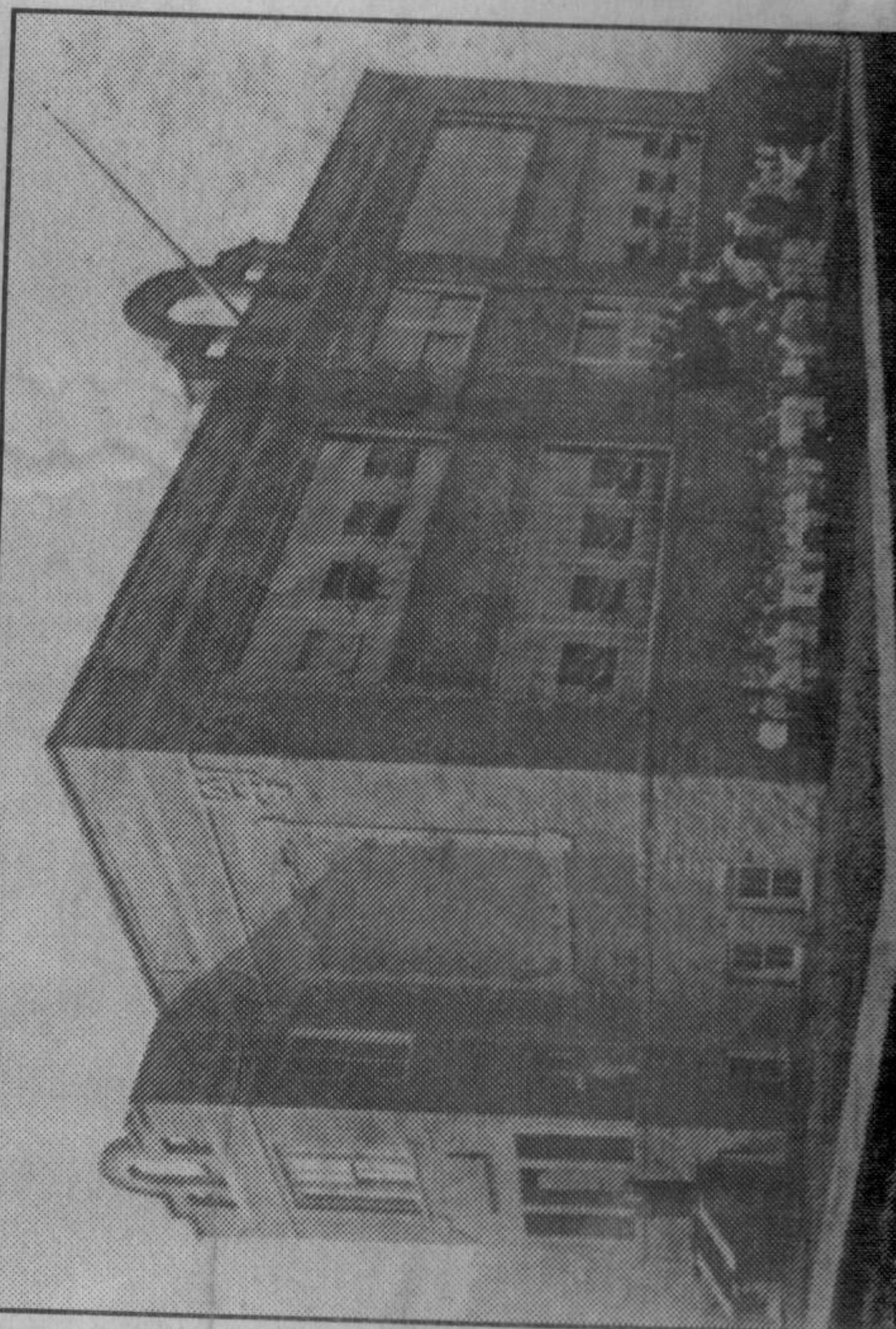


new grade school building in 1922 consisting of eight large classrooms and a four hundred fifty seat auditorium. The students of the elementary school and the high school were separated with the first eight grades occupying the new grade building. . . .

The Hillsboro Band was organized in 1953. . . . From 1970 Red Devil Year Book

Floyd T. Jones, in a short history of the school written in 1925, lists the principals and teachers to that date:

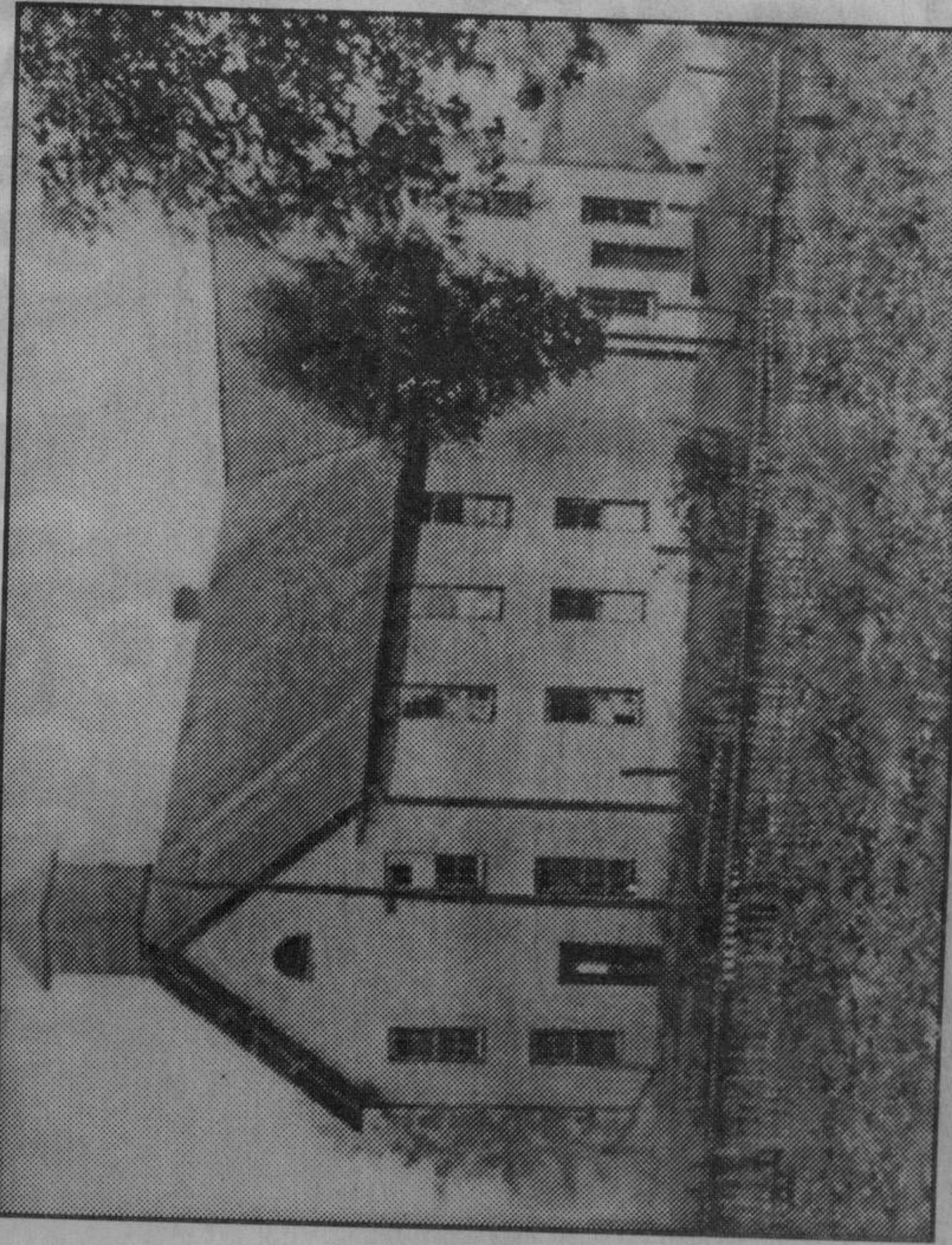
1911-Chafe Wilson, Pr., A. E. Riger
1911-12—Chafe Wilson, Pr.,



The history of secondary education in the community however, goes back much farther than the building described above. (In 1842 the State of Virginia chartered three preparatory schools to the University of

HISTORIC NOTES

Education an important part of Hillsboro history



Hillsboro High School came into existence in March, 1911, when the Board of Education of Little Levels District in a regular meeting passed an order establishing a district high school at Academy (now Hillsboro). At this same meeting, steps were taken for the holding of a district election to authorize a special levy of twenty cents on the hundred dollars' valuation for the purpose of purchasing suitable grounds and erecting a modern brick building. In this special election, held May 20, 1911, the citizens of Little Levels District decided by a large majority in favor of the levy. Much of the credit for the passage of the levy was given to the efforts of Dr. H. W. McNeel and M. L. Beard, who were members of the Board.

By the opening of school in September, 1912, a splendid new building stood complete and ready for occupancy by both grade and high school students. The first principal of the new high school was Chafe Wilson. In the first graduating class, 1913, were Bertha Overholt and Charles Smith. The class of 1914 also had only two graduates, Dakota Kirk and Henry Beard.

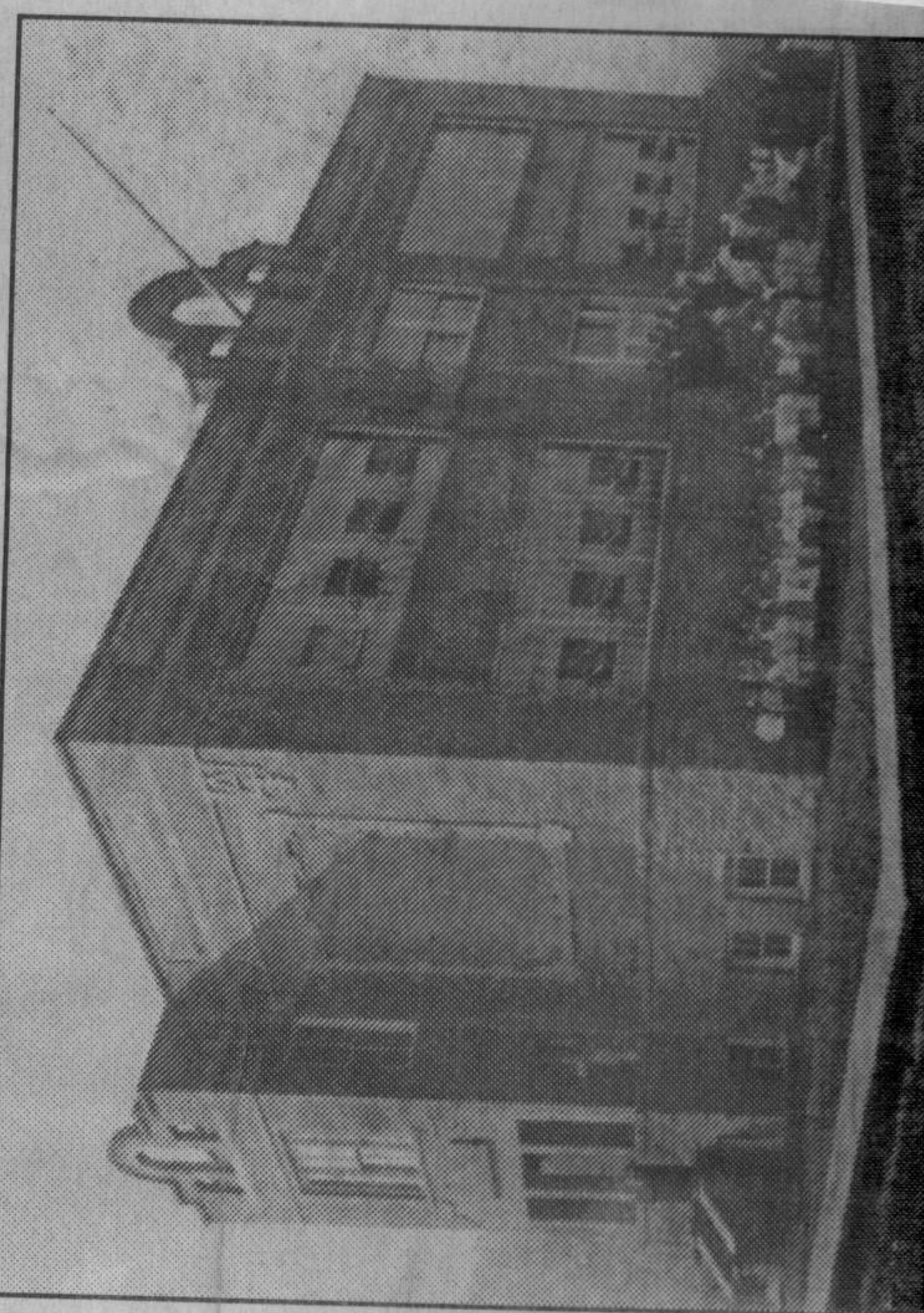
Academy — Known as the Brick Academy, the famous school was housed in a brick building until the 1882 when it was replaced by this larger frame building located where Rt. 219 and the Denmar road intersect in Hillsboro.

To this school went many of the ancestors of the people now living in and around Hillsboro. This building was used until the early "eighties" (1882). Then it was deemed inadequate to meet the needs of the school. A larger frame building was erected on the corner of the two main streets. The teachers at the Academy were among the most learned and cultured persons of the times, and included relatives of Pearl S. Buck. Hillsboro High School continued to grow after 1912 and increased beyond expectations. After viewing the crowded conditions, the Board of Education purchased adjacent land and erected a new grade school building in 1922 consisting of eight large classrooms and a four hundred fifty seat auditorium. The students of the elementary school and the high school were separated with the first eight grades occupying the new grade building. . . .

The Hillsboro Band was organized in 1953. . . . From 1970 Red Devil Year Book

Floyd T. Jones, in a short history of the school written in 1925, lists the principals and teachers to that date:

1911-Chafe Wilson, Pr., A. E. Riger
1911-12—Chafe Wilson, Pr.,
Riger

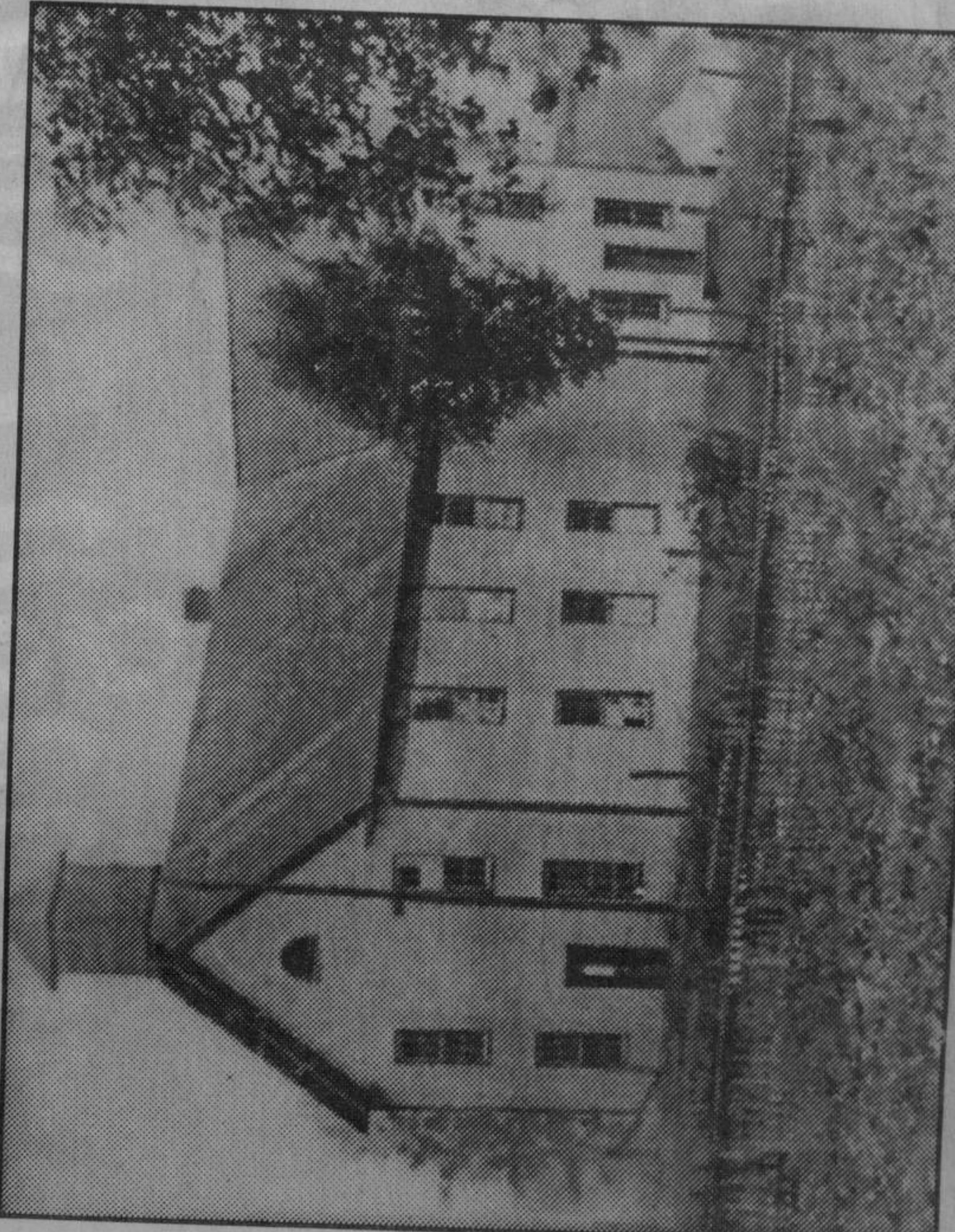


The history of secondary education in the community, however, goes back much farther than the building described above. (In 1842 the State of Virginia chartered three preparatory schools to the University of Virginia—Hillsboro, Hunterian,

HISTORIC NOTES

Education an important part of Hillsboro history

Hillsboro High School came into existence in March, 1911, when the Board of Education of Little Levels District in a regular meeting passed an order establishing a district high school at Academy (now Hillsboro). At this same meeting, steps were taken for the holding of a district election to authorize a special levy of twenty cents on the hundred dollars' valuation for the purpose of purchasing suitable grounds and erecting a modern brick building. In this special election, held May 20, 1911, the citizens of Little Levels District decided by a large majority in favor of the levy. Much of the credit for the passage of the levy was given to the efforts of Dr. H. W. McNeel and M. L. Beard, who were members of the Board.



Academy — Known as the Brick Academy, the famous school was housed in a brick building until the 1882 when it was replaced by this larger frame building located where Rt. 219 and the Denmar road intersect in Hillsboro.

new grade school building in 1922 consisting of eight large classrooms and a four hundred fifty seat auditorium. The students of the elementary school and the high school were separated with the first eight grades occupying the new grade building.

The Hillsboro Band was organized in 1953. . . . From 1970 Red Devil Year Book

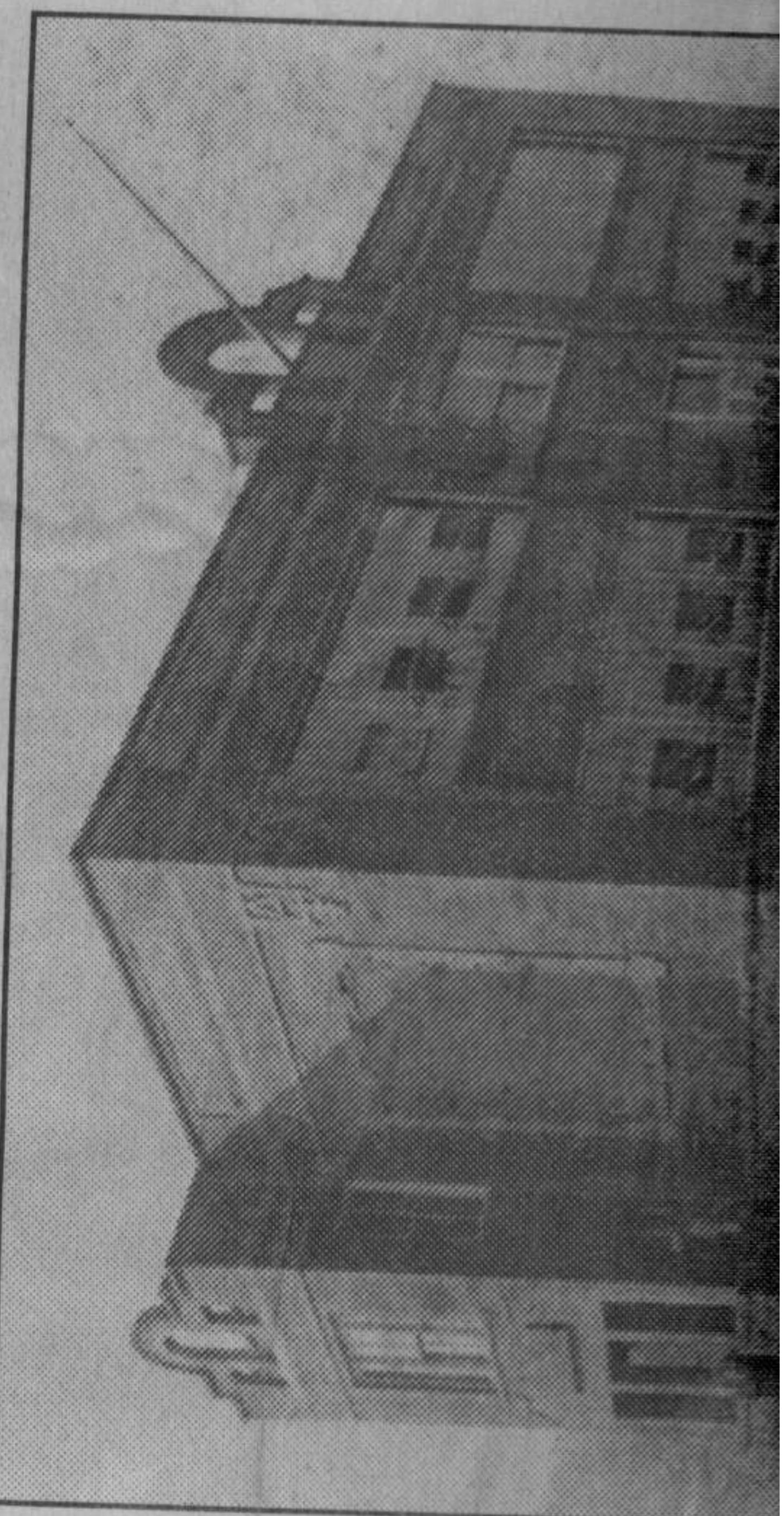
Floyd T. Jones, in a short history of the school written in 1925, lists the principals and teachers to that date:

1911-Chafe Wilson, Pr., A. E. Riger
1911-12—Chafe Wilson, Pr.,
Riger

1911-12—Chafe Wilson, Pr.,
Riger

By the opening of school in September, 1912, a splendid new building stood complete and ready for occupancy by both grade and high school students. The first principal of the new high school was Chafe Wilson. In the first graduating class, 1913, were Bertha Overholt and Charles Smith. The class of 1914 also had only two graduates, Dakota Kirk and Henry Beard.

The history of secondary ad.

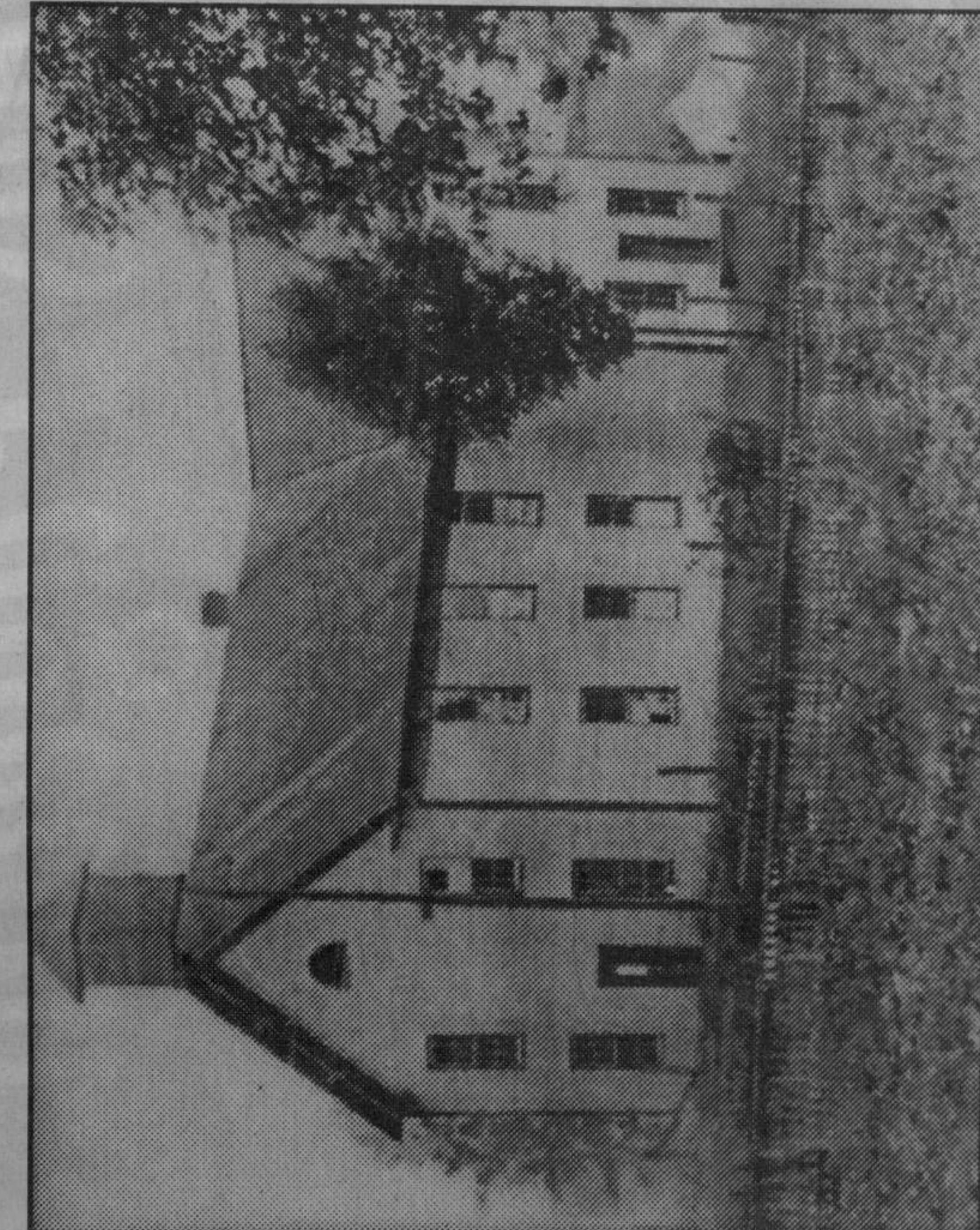


HISTORIC NOTES

Education an important part of Hillsboro history

Hillsboro High School came into existence in March, 1911, when the Board of Education of Little Levels District in a regular meeting passed an order establishing a district high school at Academy (now Hillsboro). At this same meeting, steps were taken for the holding of a district election to authorize a special levy of twenty cents on the hundred dollars' valuation for the purpose of purchasing suitable grounds and erecting a modern brick building. In this special election, held May 20, 1911, the citizens of Little Levels District decided by a large majority in favor of the levy. Much of the credit for the passage of the levy was given to the efforts of Dr. H. W. McNeel and M. L. Beard, who were members of the Board.

Academy — Known as the Brick Academy, the famous school was housed in a brick building until the 1882 when it was replaced by this larger frame building located where Rt. 219 and the Denmar road intersect in Hillsboro.



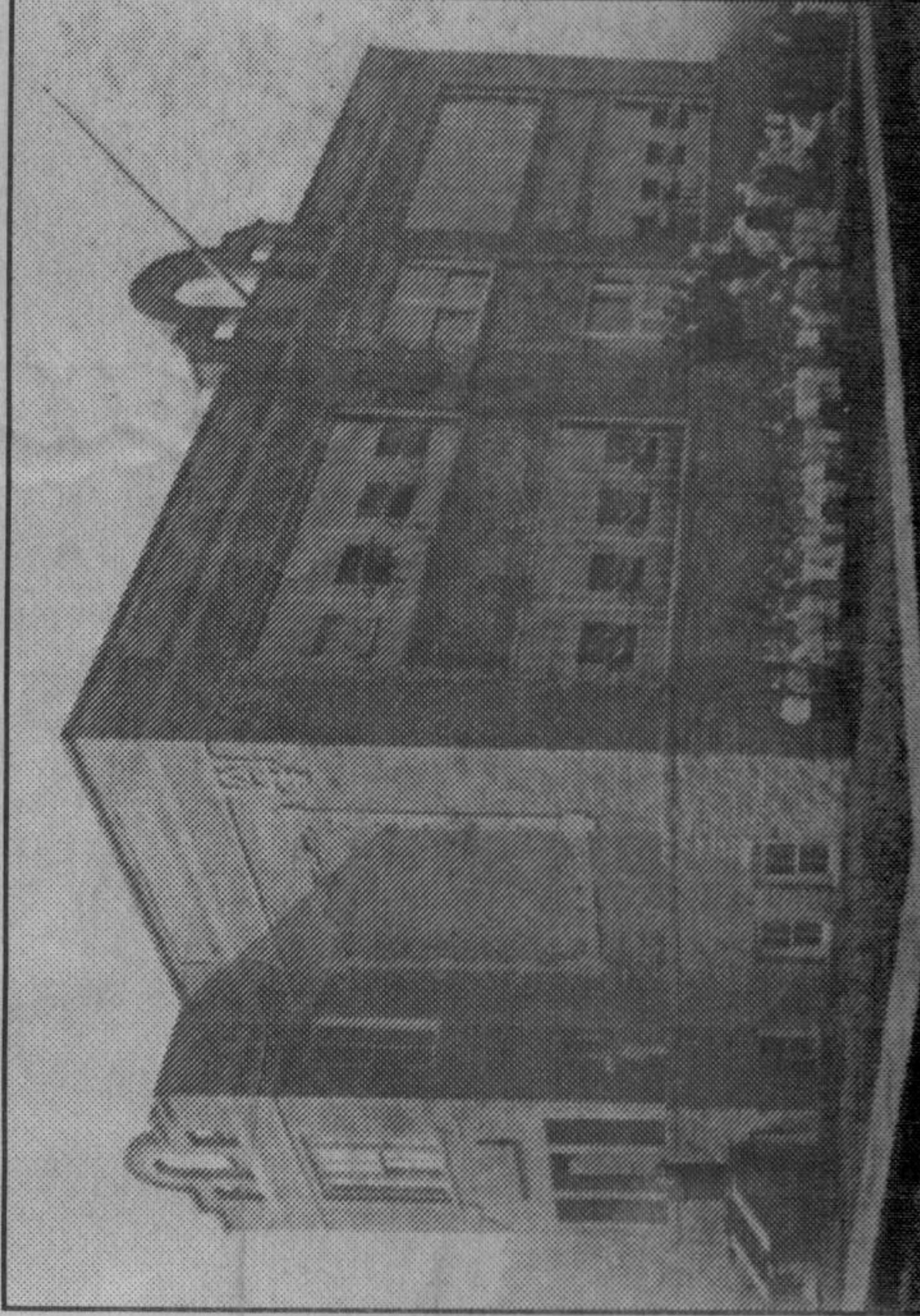
was erected. To this school went many of the ancestors of the people now living in and around Hillsboro. This building was used until the early "eighties" (1882). Then it was deemed inadequate to meet the needs of the school. A larger frame building was erected on the corner of the two main streets. The teachers at the Academy were among the most learned and cultured persons of the times, and included relatives of Pearl S. Buck.

Hillsboro High School continued to grow after 1912 and increased beyond expectations. After viewing the crowded conditions, the Board of Education purchased adjacent land and erected a new grade school building in 1922 consisting of eight large classrooms and a four hundred fifty seat auditorium. The students of the elementary school and the high school were separated with the first eight grades occupying the new grade building.

The Hillsboro Band was organized in 1953... From 1970 Red Devil Year Book

Floyd T. Jones, in a short history of the school written in 1925, lists the principals and teachers to that date:

1911-Chafe Wilson, Pr., A. E. Riger
1911-12—Chafe Wilson, Pr.,



By the opening of school in September, 1912, a splendid new building stood complete and ready for occupancy by both grade and high school students. The first principal of the new high school was Chafe Wilson. In the first graduating class, 1913, were Bertha Overholt and Charles Smith. The class of 1914 also had only two graduates, Dakota Kirk and Henry Beard.

The history of secondary education in the community, however, goes back much farther than the building described above. (In 1842 the State of Virginia chartered three preparatory schools

HISTORIC NOTES

Education an important part of Hillsboro history

Hillsboro High School came into existence in March, 1911, when the Board of Education of Little Levels District in a regular meeting passed an order establishing a district high school at Academy (now Hillsboro). At this same meeting, steps were taken for the holding of a district election to authorize a special levy of twenty cents on the hundred dollars' valuation for the purpose of purchasing suitable grounds and erecting a modern brick building. In this special election, held May 20, 1911, the citizens of Little Levels District decided by a large majority in favor of the levy. Much of the credit for the passage of the levy was given to the efforts of Dr. H. W. McNeil and M. L. Beard, who were members of the Board.

Academy — Known as the Brick Academy, the famous school was housed in a brick building until the 1882 when it was replaced by this larger frame building located where Rt. 219 and the Denmar road intersect in Hillsboro.

was erected. To this school went many of the ancestors of the people now living in and around Hillsboro. This building was used until the early "eighties" (1882). Then it was deemed inadequate to meet the needs of the school. A larger frame building was erected on the corner of the two main streets. The teachers at the Academy were among the most learned and cultured persons of the times, and included relatives of Pearl S. Buck.

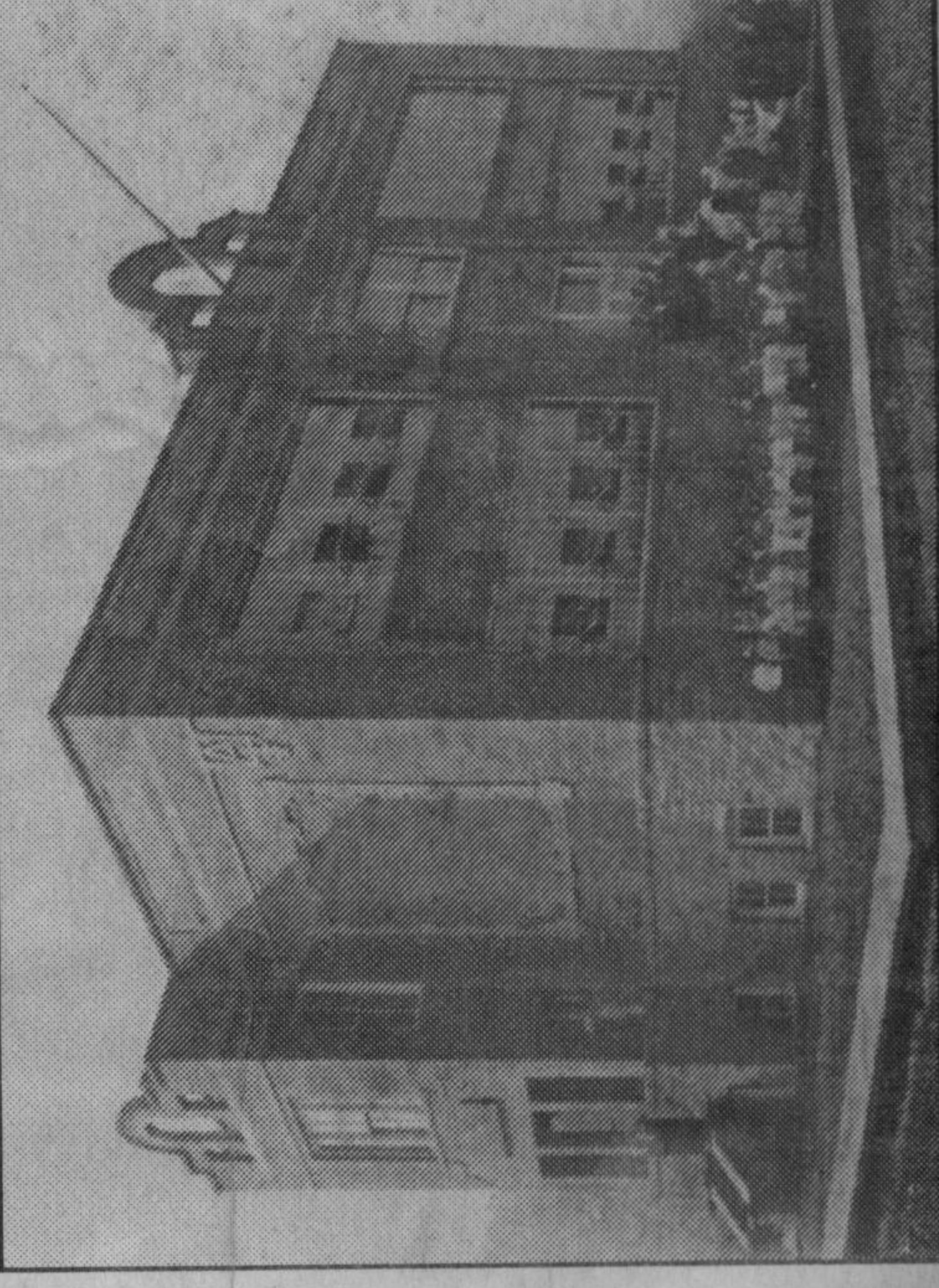
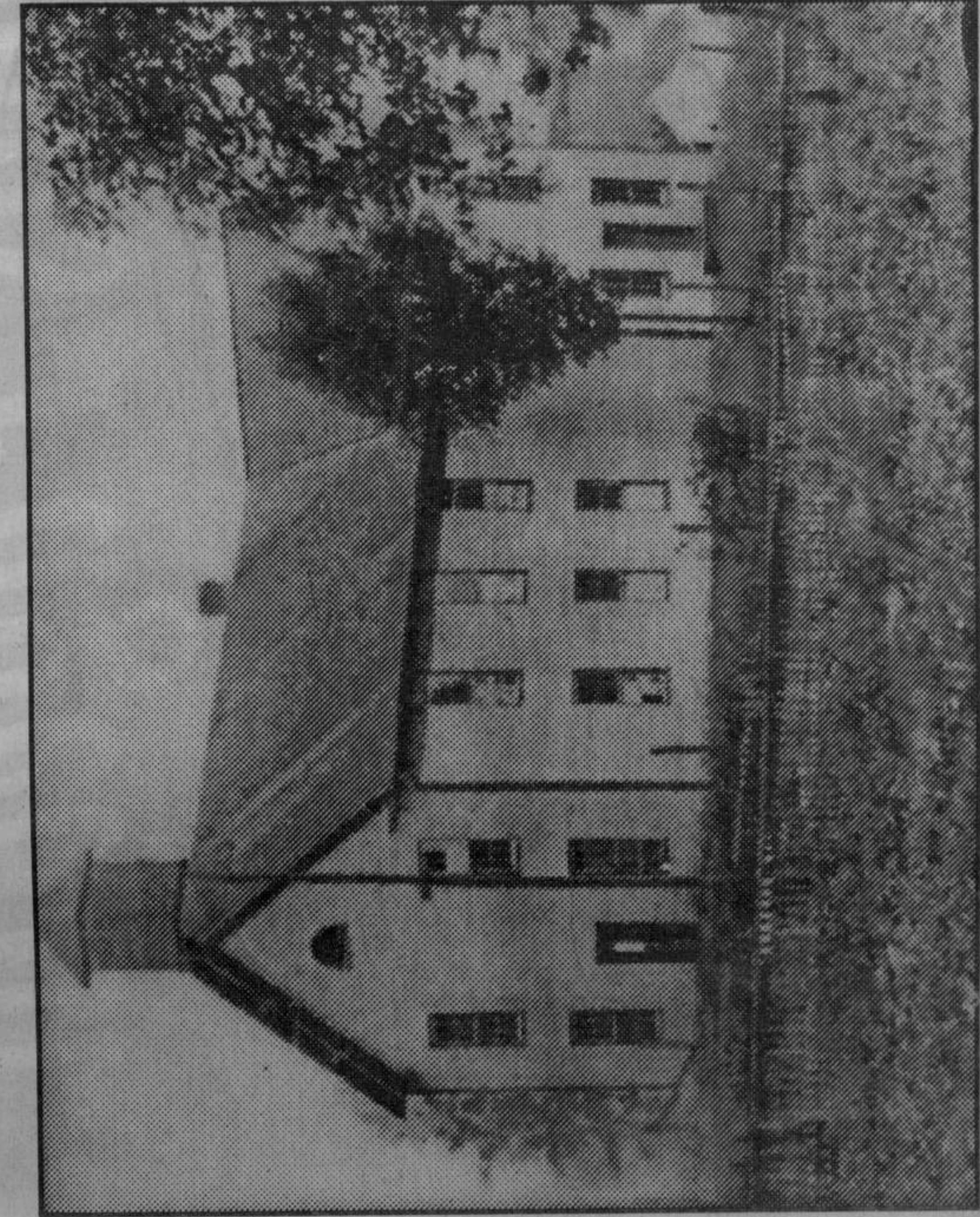
Hillsboro High School continued to grow after 1912 and increased beyond expectations. After viewing the crowded conditions, the Board of Education purchased adjacent land and erected a

new grade school building in 1922 consisting of eight large classrooms and a four hundred fifty seat auditorium. The students of the elementary school and the high school were separated with the first eight grades occupying the new grade building.

The Hillsboro Band was organized in 1953. From 1970 Red Devil Year Book

Floyd T. Jones, in a short history of the school written in 1925, lists the principals and teachers to that date:

1911-Chafe Wilson, Pr., A. E. Riger
1911-12—Chafe Wilson, Pr.,



Hillsboro High School — The first four-year public high school in Pocahontas County. Built in 1911-1912, it cost about \$15,000. After consolidation of the county

Hillsboro—Hillsboro, Huntersville and Green Bank—and Hillsboro was the first, with a school already started. A one-room brick building

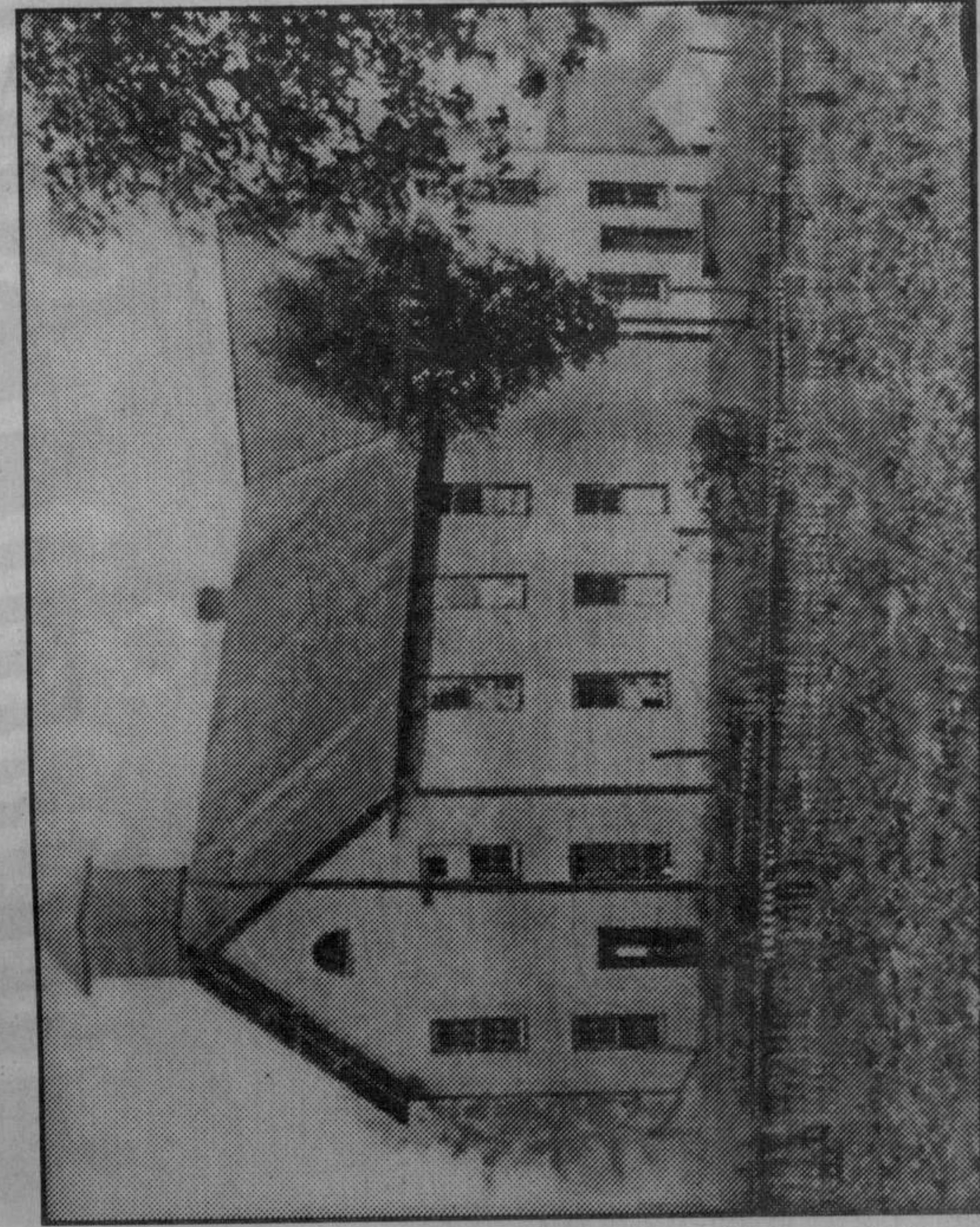
Hillsboro High School — The first four-year public high school in Pocahontas County. Built in 1911-1912, it cost about \$15,000. After consolidation of the county

Education an important part of Hillsboro history

Hillsboro High School came into existence in March, 1911, when the Board of Education of Little Levels District in a regular meeting passed an order establishing a district high school at Academy (now Hillsboro). At this same meeting, steps were taken for the holding of a district election to authorize a special levy of twenty cents on the hundred dollars' valuation for the purpose of purchasing suitable grounds and erecting a modern brick building. In this special election, held May 20, 1911, the citizens of Little Levels District decided by a large majority in favor of the levy. Much of the credit for the passage of the levy was given to the efforts of Dr. H. W. McNeel and M. L. Beard, who were members of the Board.

By the opening of school in September, 1912, a splendid new building stood complete and ready for occupancy by both grade and high school students. The first principal of the new high school was Chafe Wilson. In the first graduating class, 1913, were Bertha Overholt and Charles Smith. The class of 1914 also had only two graduates, Dakota Kirk and Henry Beard.

Academy — Known as the Brick Academy, the famous school was housed in a brick building until the 1882 when it was replaced by this larger frame building located where Rt. 219 and the Denmar road intersect in Hillsboro.



was erected. To this school went many of the ancestors of the people now living in and around Hillsboro. This building was used until the early "eighties" (1882). Then it was deemed inadequate to meet the needs of the school. A larger frame building was erected on the corner of the two main streets. The teachers at the Academy were among the most learned and cultured persons of the times, and included relatives of Pearl S. Buck.

Hillsboro High School continued to grow after 1912 and increased beyond expectations. After viewing the crowded conditions, the Board of Education purchased adjacent land and erected a new grade school building in 1922 consisting of eight large classrooms and a four hundred fifty seat auditorium. The students of the elementary school and the high school were separated with the first eight grades occupying the new grade building.

The Hillsboro Band was organized in 1953. . . .

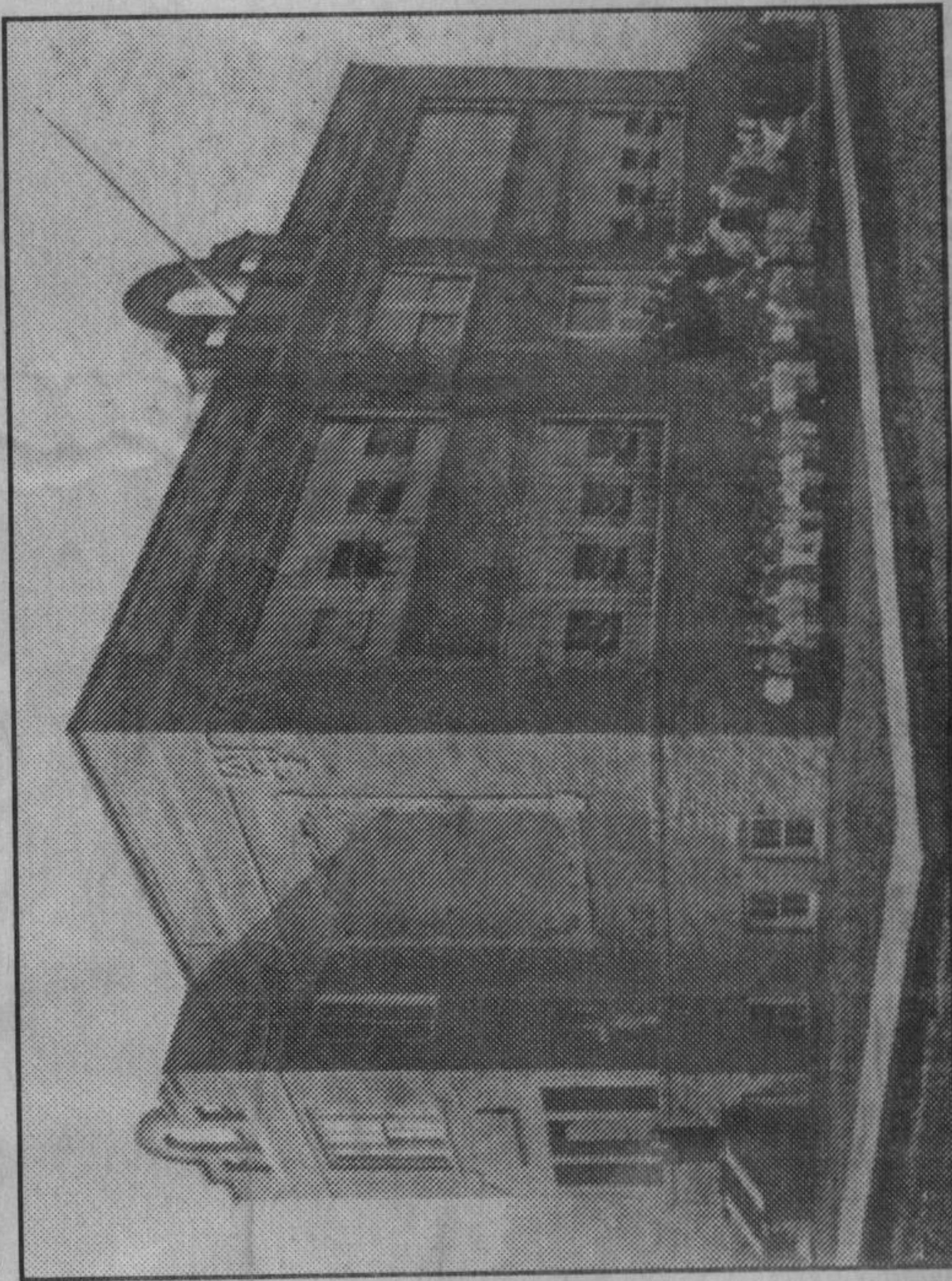
From 1970 Red Devil Year Book

Floyd T. Jones, in a short history of the school written in 1925, lists the principals and teachers to that date:

1911-Chafe Wilson, Pr., A. E.

Riger

1911-12—Chafe Wilson, Pr.,



Hillsboro High School — The first four-year public high school in Pocahontas County. Built in 1911-1912, it cost about \$15,000. After consolidation of the county high schools in 1970, this building was used for the Hillsboro Middle School. It was torn down in 1988.